DAWN OF DC

POISON IVY™

17

WILSON
VECCHIO

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!

13+
TEEN

THE SHAPE-SHIFTING INFECTION SPREADS ACROSS THE DC UNIVERSE!

TITANS BEAST WORLD #2

DAWN OF DC

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WRITTEN BY
TOM TAYLOR

ART BY
IVAN REIS

TITANS: BEAST WORLD #3
COVER BY IVAN REIS

TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: GOTHAM
COVER BY MIKEL JANÍN

TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: ATLANTIS
COVER BY MIKEL JANÍN

TITANS #6 COVER BY CLAYTON HENRY

DC'S UNPRECEDENTED TITANS EVENT CONTINUES THIS DECEMBER

- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD: WALLER RISING*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: METROPOLIS*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD #2*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: GOTHAM*
- *ACTION COMICS #1060*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD TOUR: CENTRAL CITY*
- *NIGHTWING #109*
- *TITANS: BEAST WORLD #3*
- *TITANS #6*

You know that **feeling** you get when you **slept wrong?**

Ow.

That's how it started.

I didn't give it much **thought.** I had a lot on my **plate.**

WAKE UP, JANET.

BIG TO-DO LIST TODAY. I NEED YOU TO GO SHOPPING FOR SOME THINGS.

YES! **SHOPPING!** ABSOLUTELY!

I am *definitely* awake!

The weird **dreams,** the return of people who should be **dead,** this **Undine** character...

...let's say I was unusually **distracted.**

TSS

But the pain in my **ribs** didn't go away.

Ow.

YOU OKAY? SOMETHING *OUCHIE?*

YEAH, I'VE JUST GOT THIS *WEIRD TWINGE* IN MY SIDE...

PROBABLY FROM *PUKING* MY *GUTS* OUT DURING MY LITTLE ADVENTURE WITH CROC.

YOU NEED TO *RELAX.*

COFFEE

PESTICIDE-FREE

I NEED TO GET TO *WORK.*

I *CAN'T* RELAX UNTIL I'VE EITHER MANUFACTURED ENOUGH OF THE *ANTIDOTE* TO PROTECT THE *CITY,* OR FIGURED OUT HOW TO STOP THESE UNDEAD *LAMIA CREEPERS* FROM *SPREADING...*

I am *up.* I am *awake.*

Of course, there was **other** stuff going on, too.

***Non**-zombie-apocalypse-related stuff.*

SO. HERE WE *ALL* ARE.

ALL *THREE* OF US.

JUST... THREE *GOOD FRIENDS.*

...WHY ARE YOU BEING *WEIRD?*

I'M *NOT* BEING WEIRD!

FINE. WHATEVER. I DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS. I GOTTA GET TO THE *HUNTING SHACK.*

I'VE GOT THAT *LIST* FOR YOU WHENEVER YOU'RE *READY,* JANET.

What do we *tell* her?!

Nothin'. Because there's nothin' *ta* tell.

IT WAS *ONE* TIME.

AND. IF YA REMEMBER, *YOU* KISSED *ME.*

Hnnng!

THIS GUY NEEDS *WATER.*

LISTEN, JANET, WHILE I'VE *GOT* YOU HERE--

IF YOU'RE BEING ***WEIRD*** AROUND HARLEY BECAUSE OF WHAT ***HAPPENED*** BETWEEN ***US***, DON'T BE.

PAM, THERE'S SOMETHING I ***HAVE*** TO ***TELL*** Y--

IT WAS ***ONE TIME.*** WE WERE BOTH... NOT IN OUR ***RIGHT MINDS.***

NO REASON TO MAKE HARLEY ***UPSET,*** RIGHT?

...RIGHT. SURE. Absolutely.

GOOD.

COME ON, TIME TO GET ***MOVING.***

*I am committing **so many** HR violations!*

At the **hunting shack,** with as decent a **lab station** as I can cobble together, I get down to **business.**

SLAUGHTER SWAMP. LATER.

I need to manufacture more of the **antidote.**

Much more.

But, as **usual,** there are constant **interruptions.**

ARE YOU HAVIN' A *BARBECUE* IN HERE OR SOMETHIN'?

SMELLS WEIRD.

BUT IF YOU *ARE* HAVIN' A BARBECUE, I *WANT* SOME.

BRATWURST... NICE GARLIC-MUSHROOM SAUCE ON A STEAK...

AFRAID **NOT,** CROC. BUT I AM **COOKING.**

WHAT IS THAT GOOP?

IT'S AN ***ANTIDOTE*** I CULTURED FROM MY OWN **BLOOD.**

IT WILL ***CURE*** ANY-BODY IN THE ***EARLY STAGES*** OF A *LAMIA* INFECTION.

BUT THERE'S *STILL* THE QUESTION OF HOW TO SCALE UP *PRODUCTION.*

I *CAN'T* MAKE ENOUGH ON MY *OWN*... NOT TO *CURE* AN ENTIRE POPULATION EXPOSED TO *TOXIC MUSHROOMS*...

...YOU MEAN THESE MUSH-ROOMS?

CROC! YOU DIDN'T EAT THOSE, DID YOU?!

I LIKE MUSHROOMS!

HNNGH!

?!

I try to **speak** to the **spores** in his body. To **deactivate** them, as I did with **Janet.**

But this is the **wild strain,** so it's a long shot.

But as it turns out...

...IVY? YOU OKAY? YA LOOK KINDA WEIRD.

YOU'RE NOT GONNA *HURL* AGAIN, ARE YA?

... it doesn't matter.

CROC.

YOU'RE ***IMMUNE*** TO THE ***LAMIA MUSHROOMS.***

THAT'S ***GOOD,*** RIGHT?

THAT'S... ***INCREDIBLE.***

CROCODILIANS HAVE ***NATURAL IMMUNITY*** TO A ***LOT*** OF THINGS, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED ***THIS*** WOULD BE ONE OF THEM...

POKE!

IF I CAN *SEQUENCE* YOUR *DNA*, I *MAY* BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW THIS IS EVEN *POSSIBLE*...

WAIT A MINUTE, *WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?!*

SWABBING YOUR ARM SO I CAN TAKE A *BLOOD SAMPLE.*

NO WAY!

WHAT'S THE *PROBLEM?* I DON'T NEED A *LOT.*

YOU *ALWAYS JUST TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT, HUH? WITHOUT EVEN ASKIN'?*

...I GUESS I *DO*, YEAH.

WELL, *YOU AIN'T* GETTIN' ANY OF MY *BLOOD.*

CROC, YOUR *BLOOD* COULD SAVE *THOUSANDS* OF PEOPLE.

I PROMISE I'LL *DESTROY* THE SAMPLE. I'M NOT GOING TO *CLONE* YOU OR ANYTHING, I *SWEAR.*

IT AIN'T *THAT.* IT'S--IT'S JUST--

...I'M SCARED A' NEEDLES.

THAT'S OKAY. A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE.

I'VE GOT SOME NUMBING SPRAY SOMEWHERE--

Pat Pat

WOULDN'T DO YA ANY GOOD. IT'S THE SIGHT OF 'EM I CAN'T STAND.

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE TYKE, MY AUNTIE TRIED TO TAKE ME TO THE DOCTOR A COUPLE TIMES.

TO SEE IF THEY COULD HELP ME.

FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS WRONG.

THEY COULDN'T EVEN GET A REGULAR NEEDLE THROUGH MY SKIN.

THE NEEDLES JUST BENT. I SCREAMED AND SCREAMED.

AFTER A COUPLE TIMES, MY AUNTIE JUST STOPPED TAKIN' ME TO THE DOCTOR.

Oh, Croc.

I'm so sorry.

I'M SORRY I CAN'T HELP WITH YOUR *MUSHROOM CURE* OR WHATEVER.

NOT UNLESS YOU KNOCK ME *OUT* AND GET ONE OF THEM *BIG* NEEDLES THEY USE ON *HORSES*.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'VE STILL GOT THE ***ANTIDOTE*** I MIXED UP IN CALIFORNIA. I JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET IT INTO ***FIVE MILLION*** PEOPLE.

HOW MANY?!

EVERYBODY. I HAVE TO CREATE A ***BIOLOGICAL FIREWALL*** HERE IN ***GOTHAM.*** IF THE ***WILD STRAIN*** HAS NO ***HOSTS,*** IT CAN'T ***SPREAD.***

WHY HERE IN *GOTHAM?*

...BECAUSE ***EVERYONE*** WHO'S EVER BEEN ***INFECTED*** IS COMING ***HERE.***

To ***me.***

HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?

I'VE...BEEN HAVING THESE ***DREAMS.***

I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST ***HALLUCINATIONS.*** Mushrooms will ***do*** that. BUT THEY'RE GETTING ***WORSE.***

AND ***NOW*** I THINK THEY'RE NOT ***REALLY*** DREAMS AT ALL... I THINK THE ***LAMIA*** IS ***SPEAKING*** TO ME...

...OR ***THROUGH*** ME...

Nngghh

FLASH

WHAT'S WRONG NOW?

I'VE--I'VE HAD THIS *TWINGE* IN MY SIDE EVER SINCE THE *UNDINE* INCIDENT. I MUST HAVE PULLED A *MUSCLE*...

YOU GOTTA SLOW DOWN. YOU AIN'T *SUPERMAN*.

HARLEY SAID THE *SAME THING*.

BUT I *CAN'T* SLOW DOWN. I'M *RUNNING OUT OF TIME*.

SOMETIMES I THINK... I'VE GOTTEN *CHANCES* I DON'T *DESERVE*.

SECOND CHANCES, *THIRD* CHANCES.

AND THE *CONSEQUENCES* HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP AND BUILDING UP--

--AND NOW I HAVE TO *ACCOUNT* FOR ALL THOSE *EXTRA CHANCES* I'VE BEEN GIVEN...

SkRITCH

WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT WAS *THAT*?

I don't need to **ask.**

KREEAAK

I already **know.** I can **feel** it.

IT'S **STARTING.** IT'S ONE OF **THEM.**

WHO?

MY **CHILDREN.**

I'LL **DISTRACT** IT.

YOU GET READY TO--

-LA!

SKREE!

SMASH

SPACE

YOU LEAVE HER ALONE!

KA-KA-KA-

I think to myself, you can **handle** this.

How many **near apocalypses** have **you** managed to get through **before?**

IVY! LOOK OUT!

But as the **full scope** of the problem becomes **apparent...**

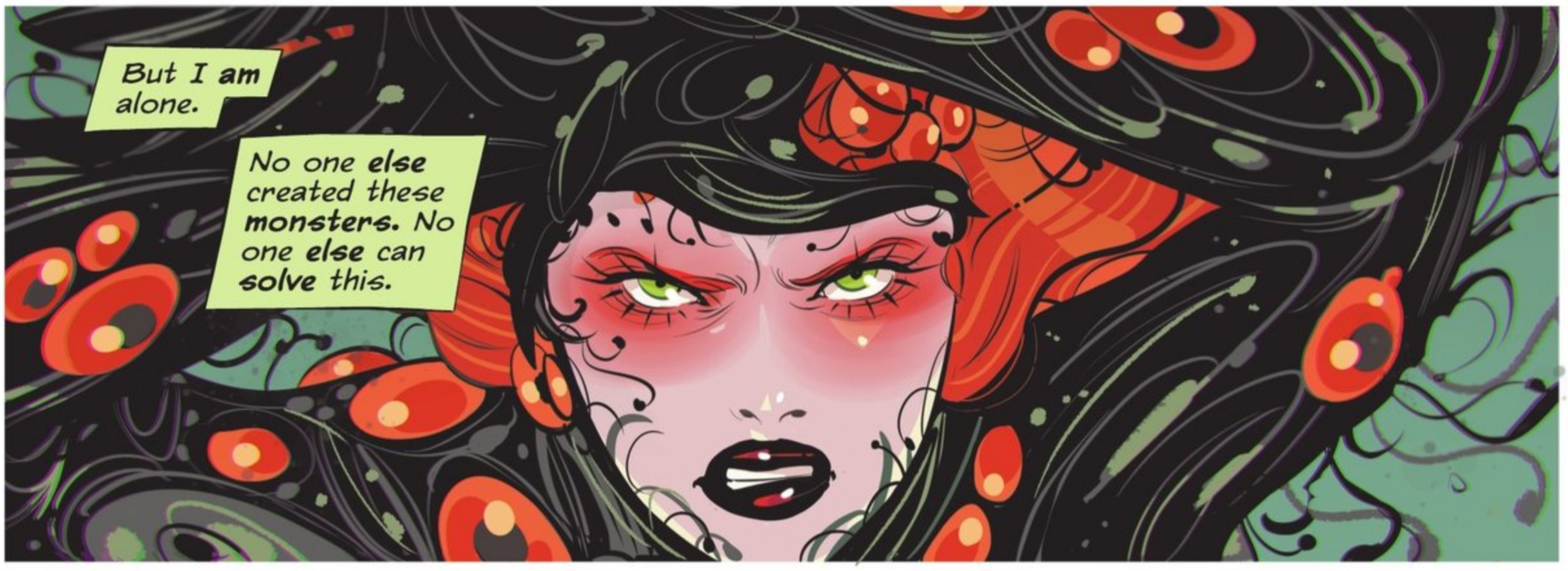
HUH?

...I realize I have **no idea** just how **bad** it's about to **get.**

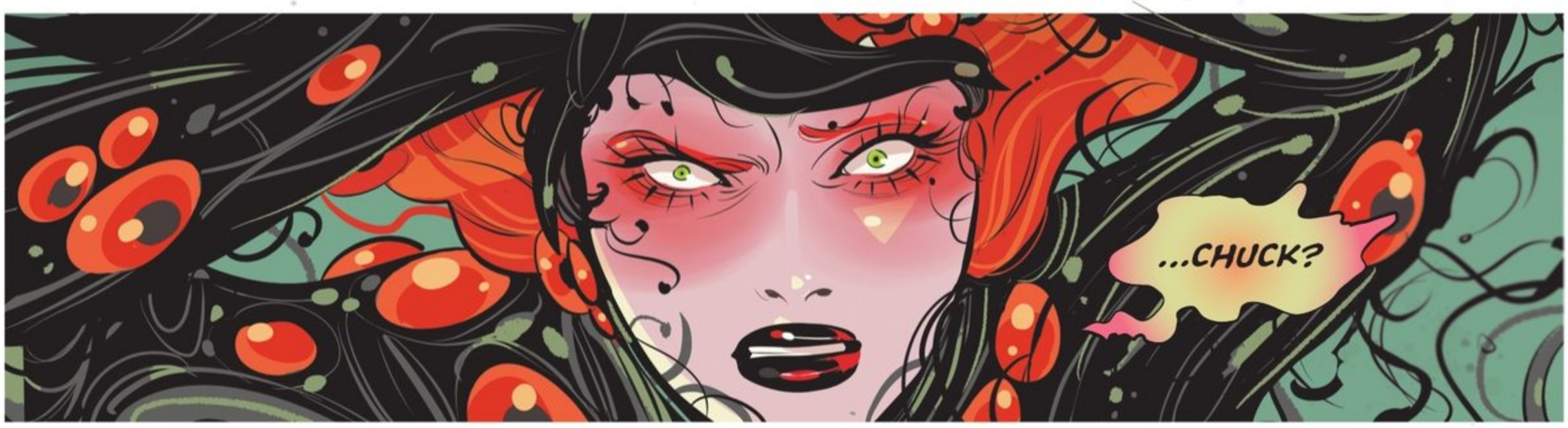
SKEEE!

UNNGH!

I can't do this **alone.**


But I **am** alone.
No one **else** created these **monsters.** No one **else** can **solve** this.

No one else **knows** what **I** know.


...CHUCK?

SKREE!

HRRK?

MUNCH

HRRK

AHHH

...Croc? Was that *you*?

What just *happened*?

...WASN'T ME, IVY.

And that's when I see him.

SOLOMON GRUNDY.

BORN ON A MONDAY.

Somehow, he's still standing **upright**, after **all** this time.

SEE? I TOLD YA THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS SWAMP.

...I HEAR YOU, CROC.

HI, SOLOMON. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

CHRISTENED ON TUESDAY.

MARRIED ON WEDNESDAY, YES. WE'VE ALL HEARD IT, THANKS.

LISTEN, I KNOW THIS IS YOUR SPECIAL PLACE, BUT--

--YOUR SWAMP IS ABOUT TO BE OVER-RUN BY PARASITIC MUSHROOM CORPSES.

SO IF YOU DON'T MIND--

ULP!

I wish people would stop doing that.

TOOK ILL ON THURSDAY!

KAFF! KAFF!

YOU BE NICE!

UH?!

THUD

IVY'S TRYIN' TO WORK HERE!

WHAM

GREW WORSE ON FRIDAY!

HUH?!

KAFF!

KAFF!

AAH!

It's worse when I **cough.** It feels almost like a **cramp.**

Like **birth pangs.**

Like some **new world** within me, struggling to be **born.**

GUYS! KNOCK IT OFF!

WE CAN **KILL** EACH OTHER **LATER**-- RIGHT **NOW** WE'VE GOT **BIGGER PROBLEMS!**

...UH-OH.

A world I made...

...and must now destroy.

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN.

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Letters
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

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1:25 Variant cover
SKYLAR PATRIDGE

Holiday variant cover
TRUNG LE NGUYEN

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Editor ARIANNA TURTURRO

Group editor BEN ABERNATHY

NEXT: GUESS THEY'LL LET ANYONE IN HERE?!

KEITH GIFFEN

1952 - 2023

KEITH GIFFEN WAS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANTLY CREATIVE HUMANS EVER TO WORK IN COMICS, THE JACK KIRBY OF MY GENERATION OF CREATORS. HE WAS A CURMUDGEON WITH A HEART OF GOLD. AN OLD, DEAR FRIEND. AND, AS MY WIFE OBSERVED, "HE WAS LIKE A CHARACTER OUT OF A KEITH GIFFEN STORY." SAFE TRAVELS, KEITH. YOU WILL BE MISSED.

–J.M. DeMATTEIS

KEITH WAS A CREATIVE FORCE OF NATURE, GIFTED WITH THE ABILITY TO BOLDLY AND ENDLESSLY PULL HIS CREATIONS FROM A BLANK PAGE AS WE WATCHED IN AMAZEMENT. HE EFFORTLESSLY CONJURED STORIES FROM SOME MYSTICAL PLACE, WITH RAZOR-SHARP WIT THAT WOULD HAVE YOU SMILING ONE MOMENT AND SOCK YOU IN THE GUT THE NEXT. KEITH, WE HOLD YOU IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.

–HOWARD PORTER

KEITH GIFFEN'S BRILLIANCE AS BOTH WRITER AND ARTIST IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE INCREDIBLE BREADTH OF HIS WORK OVER MORE THAN 45 YEARS. THAT CREATIVE ENERGY, ALONG WITH HIS ABILITY TO MOVE THROUGH A CASCADE OF IDEAS THAT DIDN'T WORK UNTIL HE FOUND ONE THAT DID, WAS PRIZED BY EVERYONE WHO COLLABORATED WITH HIM.

–DAN JURGENS

I ASKED KEITH ONCE, "WHAT'S THE SECRET TO YOUR CAREER LONGEVITY?" HE SAID, "FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU DO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AND OWN THAT LANE. WHEN PUBLISHERS WANT IT, THEY'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COME TO YOU." THE THING IS, KEITH DIDN'T OWN A LANE. HE OWNED THE WHOLE HIGHWAY. I MISS YOU, MY FRIEND.

–MARK WAID

KEITH HAD THE MOST FERTILE AND IMAGINATIVE MIND IN COMICS IN MY GENERATION. IT WAS A DELIGHT TO BUILD OUT THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE WITH HIM.

–PAUL LEVITZ

I OWE MUCH OF WHAT I HAVE TODAY TO KEITH. WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS EVER SINCE I WAS THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL DRAWING LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ART IN FANZINES. HE CALLED ME THE "LITTLE SISTER I NEVER WANTED." BUT IF I HAD WANTED ANOTHER BROTHER, KEITH WOULD HAVE BEEN EVERYTHING I WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR.

–COLLEEN DORAN

HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS. ALL I KNOW IS THAT KEITH WOULD BE ANNOYED BY THIS WHOLE THING, BUT IF ANYONE TRULY DESERVED PRAISE AND APPRECIATION FROM THE COMICS INDUSTRY, IT WOULD BE KEITH. I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE IT.

–DAN DiDIO

KEITH WAS A MASTER STORYTELLER, FULL OF GOOD IDEAS, AND WHEN HE KNEW HE WAS RIGHT HE WOULD FIGHT THE BATTLE UNTIL THE END. THERE ARE NO MORE BATTLES TO FIGHT, MY FRIEND.

–BRIAN MILLER

ANDY HELFER ONCE TOLD ME, "IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE FIRST IDEA KEITH GIVES YOU, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL PITCH YOU ANOTHER ONE. AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT ONE, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL HAVE ANOTHER ONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK FROM KEITH." KEITH WAS BRIGHT AND RESOURCEFUL ENOUGH THAT I ALWAYS TOOK THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK.

–JOEY CAVALIERI

KEITH WAS THE YOUNGEST GRUMPY OLD MAN I EVER MET–AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I LOVED HIM. THE HOURS, DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS WE SPENT WORKING AND PLAYING TOGETHER WERE SOME OF THE BEST IN MY TIME AT DC. WITH THE FACILITY OF A KURTZMAN, KEITH COULD PENCIL-SKETCH A FULL ISSUE OF *JLA* IN AN HOUR. AS PART OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* CREW, HE WAS THE FULCRUM THAT BALANCED THE REST OF US, AND HE WILL BE MISSED.

–ANDY HELFER

I'M ALSO WORKING ON THE THIRD [*JLI*] OMNIBUS COVER, AND NOW, LOOKING AT ALL THESE KEITH GIFFEN CHARACTERS LOOKING AT ME, IT FEELS UNSURPRISINGLY MELANCHOLY. A WISE-ASS UNTIL THE END. MAY THE WINGS OF ANGELS FLY YOU ON YOUR NEW ADVENTURE, YOU MAGNIFICENT BASTARD!

–KEVIN MAGUIRE

KEITH POSSESSED AN INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE OF TALENT, HAD A FEARLESS TAKE ON EVERY PROJECT ASKED OF HIM, AND CREATED SOME OF THE MOST ABSURD, OVER-THE-TOP, AND HILARIOUS CHARACTERS EVER. TRULY A MASTER OF EVERY FACET OF THE CRAFT OF MAKING COMICS AND A CREATIVE DYNAMO LIKE NO OTHER.

–JIM LEE

WHEN I WAS A KID, KEITH GIFFEN WAS MY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CREATOR. IT WAS HIS WORK ON *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES* AND *JUSTICE LEAGUE* THAT FIRST CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, AND THEN IT WAS HIS EVER-EVOLVING ART STYLE THAT SHOWED A KID LIKE ME THAT YOU COULD HAVE A WEIRD DRAWING STYLE AND STILL MAKE GOOD COMICS. KEITH'S CURMUDGEONLY STYLE HID A HEART OF GOLD AND AN ENDLESSLY RESTLESS CREATIVE SPIRIT. HE WILL BE MISSED. BY ME AND SO MANY FANS AND READERS.
REST IN PEACE, KEITH, AND THANK YOU.

–JEFF LEMIRE

Art by Kevin Maguire. Characters: Garryn Bek, Stone Boy, Manga Khan, General Glory, Andromeda, Heckler, G'nort, Blue Beetle (Jaime Reyes), Maxwell Lord, Ambush Bug, Lobo, L-Ron, and Keith Giffen.
Expanded tributes: dc.com/rememberingkeithgiffen.

PEACE ON EARTH, KRAMPUS IN GOTHAM

Batman–Santa Claus Silent Knight

© & TM

Written by
JEFF PARKER

Art by
MICHELE BANDINI

4 ISSUES
DECEMBER

Main cover by **DAN MORA**

DC NATION INTERVIEW

JAMES WAN
DIRECTOR OF

AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM

What was the process of crafting the story for *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*?

We knew moving forward that the sequel needed to grow and embellish upon the first film. We knew that we wanted to dive deeper into this world and build upon the first movie, but take it in a more mature direction. That was very important for all of us. We knew that the first film was really fun, and it was important to keep that spirit, but we also wanted to say a bit more.

Did you look to any comic book material for inspiration?

For writer David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick and myself, we really fell in love with this character in the Silver Age of comics, which was the ’50s and ’60s. We knew we wanted the story to embrace that and have the film visually feel like a bit of a retro callback to that time period.

How does Aquaman and Orm’s relationship connect to the core of the film?

The heart of this movie is really about two brothers setting aside their differences to come together for a great cause and find a middle ground. It doesn’t matter what genre I make my movies in; it always comes back to the human aspect of the characters. I’m a big fan of human relationships. For me, really the heart of this film is the relationship between Arthur and Orm.

What would you like to say to the Aquaman fans?

For the fans of Aquaman, and especially the fans of the comic book, I stayed very true to that world. I’m a genuine fan of the Aquaman comic books, his origin, and I really respect the spirit of what he was intended to be.

I try to lean into that even more with this film to capture a hero who fights for the environment. Aquaman is very different from other, land-based superheroes. He has such an interesting world that he operates in. He meets all kinds of interesting characters, and I just wanted to honor that.

AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM

IN THEATERS DECEMBER 22!

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